

Application Serial No. 10/790,267
Amendment dated June 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated March 17, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23-30, 33, 37, 38 are pending in the present application. Claims 9, 12, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 31, 32 and 34-36 have been cancelled by the present amendment. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 14, 22, 35 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Specification

Applicant has amended paragraphs. [0004], [0016] and [0020] to correct minor clerical errors. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected Independent Claims 1, 15 and 26, and Claims 2-7, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30-32, 36 and 37 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 01289715 to Takemi (hereinafter "Takemi '715"). The Examiner also rejected Claims 8, 11, 19, 23, 29 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being rendered obvious by Takemi '715 in view of one or more additional references.

Applicant has amended Independent Claims 1, 15 and 26 to include the limitations of dependent Claims 14, 22 and 35, respectively, and all intervening dependent claims. As Claims 14, 22 and 35 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicant respectfully submits that Independent Claims 1, 15 and 26, which now include the limitations of Claims 14, 22 and 35, respectively, are allowable along with Claims 2-7, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, 17, 19-21, 23-25, 27-32, 34, 36 and 37 depending therefrom. Applicant has rewritten Claim 38 in independent form and requests the allowance thereof.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance thereof.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby petitions therefore and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

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Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: June 19, 2006

JOHN F. HOFFMAN REGIS. NO. 26,280

Name of Registered Representative

Signature

June 19, 2006

Date